

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1           1.     A method of accessing a subject multi-dimensional database stored on a data store  
2 connected to a computer, comprising:  
3           creating an index for the subject multi-dimensional database, wherein the index comprises  
4 another multi-dimensional database; and  
5           accessing the subject multi-dimensional database using the index.

1           2.     The method of claim 1, wherein the index comprises a multi-dimensional database  
2 that is derived from the subject multi-dimensional database.

1           3.     The method of claim 1, further comprising identifying features in the subject multi-  
2 dimensional database.

1           4.     The method of claim 3, further comprising collecting parameter values for  
2 retrieving data from the subject multi-dimensional database to be used when identifying features.

1           5.     The method of claim 3, wherein identifying features comprises generating an  
2 ordered list of multi-dimensional points.

1           6.     The method of claim 5, wherein the ordered list of multi-dimensional points is  
2 stored in a spreadsheet data file.

1           7.     The method of claim 5, further comprising creating the index using the list of  
2 multi-dimensional points.

1           8.     The method of claim 3, wherein identifying features comprises generating  
2 additional information.

1           9.     The method of claim 8, further comprising storing the additional information as  
2 one or more linked reporting objects.

1           10.    The method of claim 1, wherein the subject multi-dimensional database comprises  
2    dimensions and members.

1           11.    The method of claim 10, wherein the index comprises the dimensions of the subject  
2    multi-dimensional database.

1           12.    The method of claim 11, wherein the index comprises an additional ranking  
2    dimension.

1           13.    The method of claim 12, further comprising mapping the dimensions of the subject  
2    multi-dimensional database to the index, while mapping out the ranking dimension.

1           14.    The method of claim 11, wherein the index comprises a dimension having a  
2    member representing one or more deviations.

1           15.    The method of claim 14, further comprising mapping the member representing a  
2    deviation to a member of the subject multi-dimensional database.

1           16.    The method of claim 1, further comprising linking the index to the subject multi-  
2    dimensional database.

1           17.    The method of claim 1, further comprising creating a spreadsheet from the  
2    index.

1           18.    The method of claim 17, further comprising accessing the subject multi-  
2    dimensional database with the spreadsheet.

1           19.    An apparatus for accessing a subject multi-dimensional database, comprising:  
2           a computer having a data store coupled thereto, wherein the data store stores a subject  
3    multi-dimensional database;

one or more computer programs, performed by the computer, for creating an index for the subject multi-dimensional database, wherein the index comprises another multi-dimensional database and for accessing the subject multi-dimensional database using the index.

20. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the index comprises a multi-dimensional database that is derived from the subject multi-dimensional database.

21. The apparatus of claim 19, further comprising identifying features in the subject multi-dimensional database.

22. The apparatus of claim 21, further comprising collecting parameter values for retrieving data from the subject multi-dimensional database to be used when identifying features.

23. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein identifying features comprises generating an ordered list of multi-dimensional points.

24. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the ordered list of multi-dimensional points is stored in a spreadsheet data file.

25. The apparatus of claim 23, further comprising creating the index using the list of multi-dimensional points.

26. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein identifying features comprises generating additional information.

27. The apparatus of claim 26, further comprising storing the additional information as one or more linked reporting objects.

28. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the subject multi-dimensional database comprises dimensions and members.

1           29.    The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the index comprises the dimensions of the  
2   subject multi-dimensional database.

1           30.    The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the index comprises an additional ranking  
2   dimension.

1           31.    The apparatus of claim 30, further comprising mapping the dimensions of the  
2   subject multi-dimensional database to the index, while mapping out the ranking dimension.

1           32.    The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the index comprises a dimension having a  
2   member representing one or more deviations.

1           33.    The apparatus of claim 32, further comprising mapping the member representing  
2   a deviation to a member of the subject multi-dimensional database.

1           34.    The apparatus of claim 19, further comprising linking the index to the subject  
2   multi-dimensional database.

1           35.    The apparatus of claim 19, further comprising creating a spreadsheet from the  
2   index.

1           36.    The apparatus of claim 35, further comprising accessing the subject multi-  
2   dimensional database with the spreadsheet.

1           37.    An article of manufacture comprising a program storage medium readable by a  
2   computer and embodying one or more instructions executable by the computer to access a subject  
3   multi-dimensional database stored on a data store connected to the computer, comprising:  
4        creating an index for the subject multi-dimensional database, wherein the index comprises  
5   another multi-dimensional database; and  
6        accessing the subject multi-dimensional database using the index.

1 38. The article of manufacture of claim 37, wherein the index comprises a multi-  
2 dimensional database that is derived from the subject multi-dimensional database.

1 39. The article of manufacture of claim 37, further comprising identifying features in  
2 the subject multi-dimensional database.

1 40. The article of manufacture of claim 39, further comprising collecting parameter  
2 values for retrieving data from the subject multi-dimensional database to be used when identifying  
3 features.

1 41. The article of manufacture of claim 39, wherein identifying features comprises  
2 generating an ordered list of multi-dimensional points.

1 42. The article of manufacture of claim 41, wherein the ordered list of multi-  
2 dimensional points is stored in a spreadsheet data file.

1 43. The article of manufacture of claim 41, further comprising creating the index using  
2 the list of multi-dimensional points.

1 44. The article of manufacture of claim 39, wherein identifying features comprises  
2 generating additional information.

1 45. The article of manufacture of claim 44, further comprising storing the additional  
2 information as one or more linked reporting objects.

1 46. The article of manufacture of claim 37, wherein the subject multi-dimensional  
2 database comprises dimensions and members.

1 47. The article of manufacture of claim 46, wherein the index comprises the  
2 dimensions of the subject multi-dimensional database.

1           48.     The article of manufacture of claim 47, wherein the index comprises an additional  
2 ranking dimension.

1           49.     The article of manufacture of claim 48, further comprising mapping the dimensions  
2 of the subject multi-dimensional database to the index, while mapping out the ranking dimension.

1           50.     The article of manufacture of claim 47, wherein the index comprises a dimension  
2 having a member representing one or more deviations.

1           51.     The article of manufacture of claim 50, further comprising mapping the member  
2 representing a deviation to a member of the subject multi-dimensional database.

1           52.     The article of manufacture of claim 37, further comprising linking the index to the  
2 subject multi-dimensional database.

1           53.     The article of manufacture of claim 37, further comprising creating a spreadsheet  
2 from the index.

1           54.     The article of manufacture of claim 53, further comprising accessing the subject  
2 multi-dimensional database with the spreadsheet.